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ABSTRACT

This test booklet contains 50 multiple choice items testing sixth grade social studies achievement. The test was administered by the Alberta (Canada) Department of Education in June 1985. The items concern early civilizations, Southeast Asia, and regulation by the government. Fifty minutes are allowed to complete this test. (GDC)

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ED267074

TM 850 718

Grade 6 Social Studies

ACHIEVEMENT TEST

Part A: Multiple Choice

June 1985

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GRADE 6 SOCIAL STUDIES ACHIEVEMENT TEST

PART A: MULTIPLE CHOICE

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

1. Please be sure that you have put your name and other information on your answer sheet before you begin this part of the test.

2. This test has 50 questions. You will not be finished until you see the STOP sign on page 28. You have 50 minutes to complete this part of the test.

3. Read carefully. Choose the CORRECT or BEST answer for each question.

4. Mark your answer on the answer sheet with an HB pencil only. Be sure that the number on the answer sheet is the same as the question number in the test booklet.

   Example:

   Test Booklet

   8. Edmonton is the capital city of

   A. British Columbia
   B. Alberta
   C. Saskatchewan
   D. Manitoba

   Answer Sheet

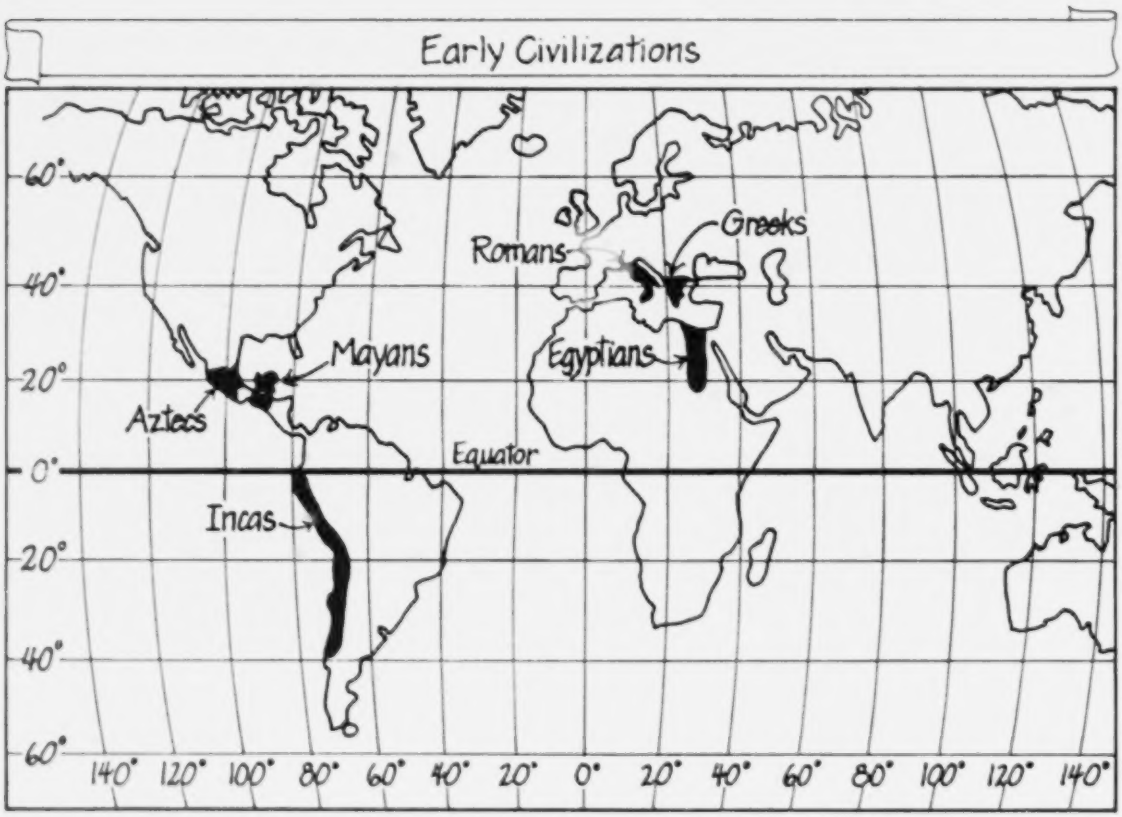
	A	B	C	D
8.	○	●	○	○

5. Fill in the entire circle for each answer that you choose. If you make a mistake, erase your first mark COMPLETELY and fill in the correct circle.

6. Try to answer every question.

DO NOT WRITE ON THE TEST BOOKLET

THIS PART OF THE TEST IS ABOUT HOW PEOPLE IN EARLIER TIMES MET THEIR NEEDS.



Questions 1 to 4 refer to the civilizations shown on the map on page 2.

1. Archeologists found artifacts at latitude 39° north and longitude 23° east. To which early civilization did the artifacts belong?

   A. The Aztecs
   B. The Greeks
   C. The Mayans
   D. The Egyptians

2. Climate would have had the GREATEST effect in determining how the people of an area met their need for

   A. shelter
   B. social order
   C. transportation
   D. communication

3. Most early civilizations developed in areas that had

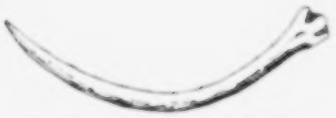
   A. dense forests
   B. sandy deserts
   C. mild climates
   D. rugged mountains

4. When people build shelters, the basic need they are trying to meet is

   A. social
   B. cultural
   C. physical
   D. psychological

5. Which object found by archeologists would teach us the most about how people met basic needs?

A. A piece of volcanic rock



B. A rib from a buffalo

C. An eagle feather buried in sand

D. A needle made from a bone

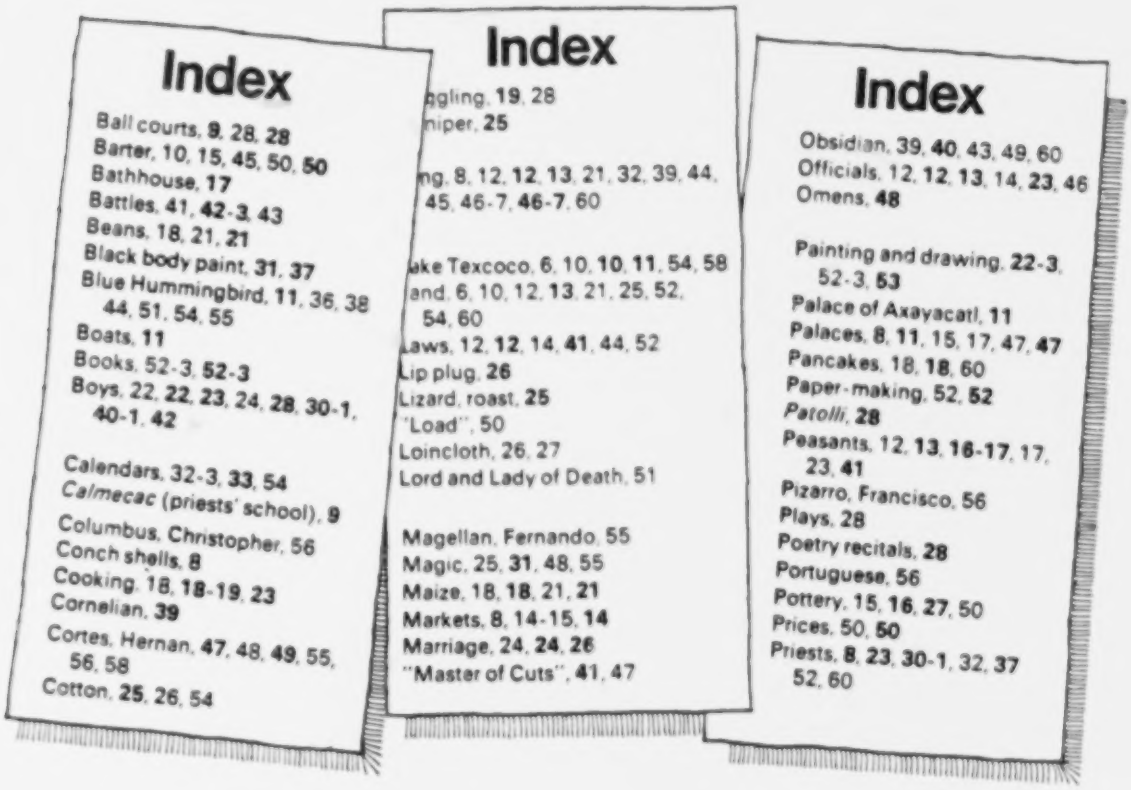
6. To live together successfully, people in early civilizations had to develop

A. laws
B. towns
C. armies
D. temples

7. Many early civilizations experienced rapid, major changes to their cultures as a result of

A. being conquered
B. building bigger shelters
C. keeping historical records
D. practising religious beliefs

Question 8 is based on the following index pages taken from a book about Aztecs.



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8. Suppose you want to know if the Aztecs met their need for food by trading with other communities. Which heading in the index would most likely lead you to the information you need?

   A. Beans
   B. Cooking
   C. Markets
   D. Prices

Use the information below to answer questions 9 to 11.

Cathy and Blair had a debate at school. Cathy chose to talk about the Mayan civilization. Blair spoke about his society.

Cathy said:

I like the Mayan way of making decisions. Although their system was harsh, at least the Mayans knew what the rules were. The *Halach Uinic* (chief ruler) and high priests lived in the palaces. Noblemen were expected to live near the city centre, while farmers and peasants lived in small huts at the edge of the city.

Blair said:

Yes, but we have more freedom in our society. Some people don't think it's important to spend most of their money on housing. Others want large homes so they work hard to earn extra money. These people can afford to rent or own bigger homes. I think our system is fair.

9. Cathy and Blair have different ideas about how people in a society should make a decision about

A. how much to pay for housing
B. how much to charge for housing
C. who gets the best kind of housing
D. who gets a house of his own

10. According to Cathy, an advantage of the Mayan system of housing was that people

A. did not have to go into debt
B. knew what was expected of them
C. got housing without having to work
D. worked hard to get what they wanted

11. Blair believes it is important for people to

A. be prepared to put in more effort
B. buy what they can afford
C. be able to make choices
D. rent the best houses

---

12. In MOST early civilizations, wealth and power were

A. held mainly by the merchants and traders
B. held mainly by the nobles and priests
C. shared equally by the warriors
D. shared equally by all citizens

Use the chart below to answer questions 13 to 15.

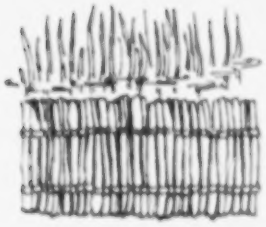
Building Materials Used by Early Civilizations

MATERIAL	QUALITY OF MATERIAL	AVAILABILITY OF MATERIAL	ABILITY TO LAST	SKILL TO MAKE AND USE MATERIAL	LABOR FORCE NEEDED
REEDS JOINED TOGETHER WITH MUD	poor quality	easy to find	must be repaired often	easy to use	one or two workers
CLAY BRICKS	good quality	easy to find	will last many years	some skill needed	one or many workers
WOOD PLANKS	good quality	only found in certain places	will last many years	many skills needed	many workers
ROCK CUT FROM QUARRIES	excellent quality	only found in certain places	will outlast civilization	great skill needed	great number of workers

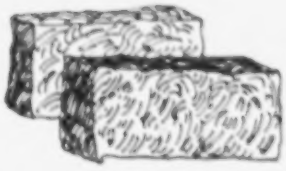
13. A disadvantage of using reeds as a building material was related to

A. their availability
B. their ability to last
C. the skill needed to use them
D. the labor force needed to build with them

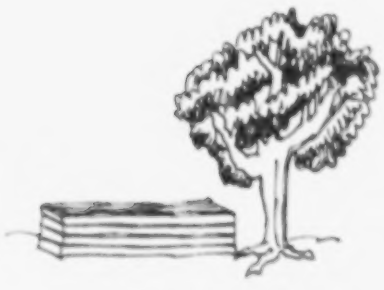
14. The work of laborers had to be MOST organized when they were building with



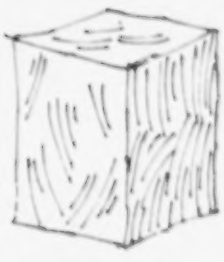
A. reeds



B. clay bricks



C. wood planks



D. rock

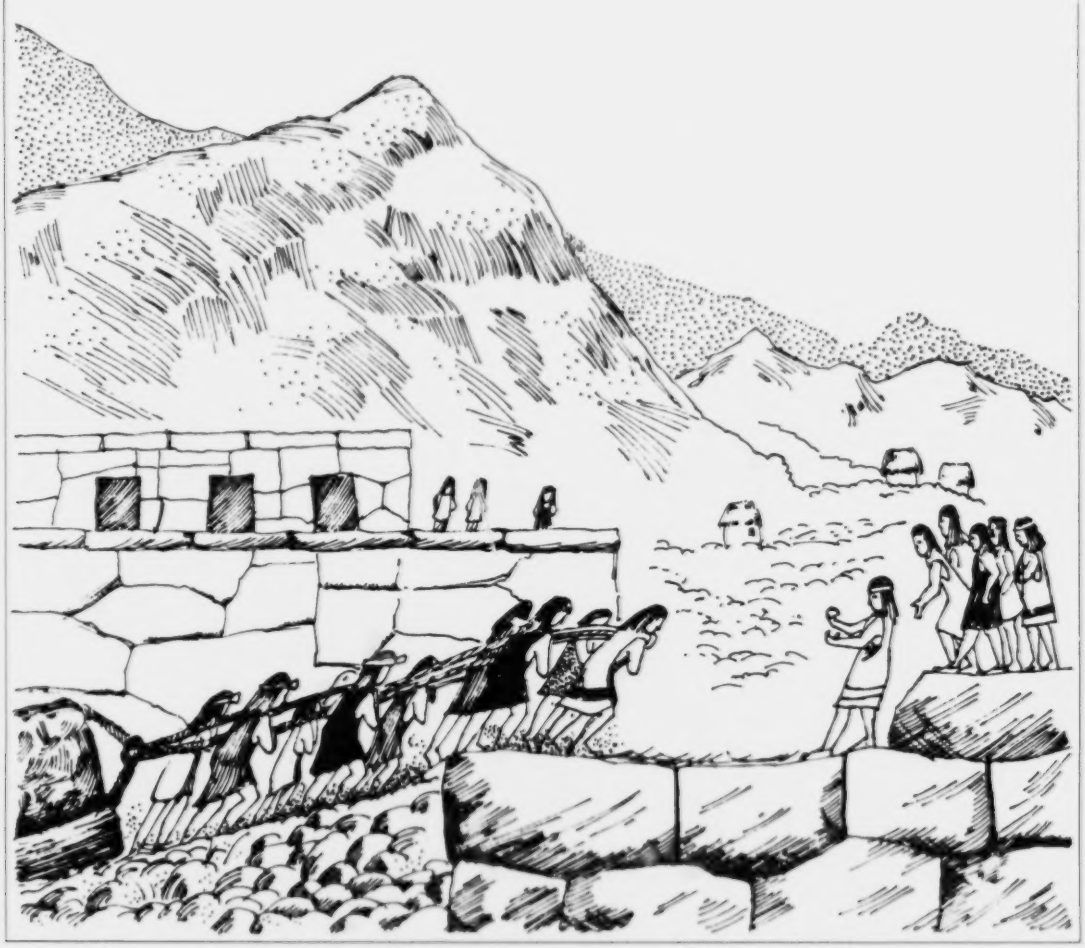
15. "Only very wealthy people in early civilizations built homes made from rock."

What information from the chart gives the BEST support for the statement above?

A. Building with rock takes a lot of highly skilled labor.
B. Small homes are not easily built with rock.
C. Houses built from rock last a long time.
D. Rock is only found in quarries.

Use the information below to answer questions 16 and 17.

Important buildings such as the palace of the *Inca* (ruler) and the temples were constructed by peasants paying their *mita*. The *mita* was a tax that was paid by working for the *Inca*. Once a year, each male peasant spent two or three weeks working on building projects. The workers were fed, but not paid, while working for the *Inca*.



16. How would a public arena be built in Alberta today if the *mita* system were followed exactly?

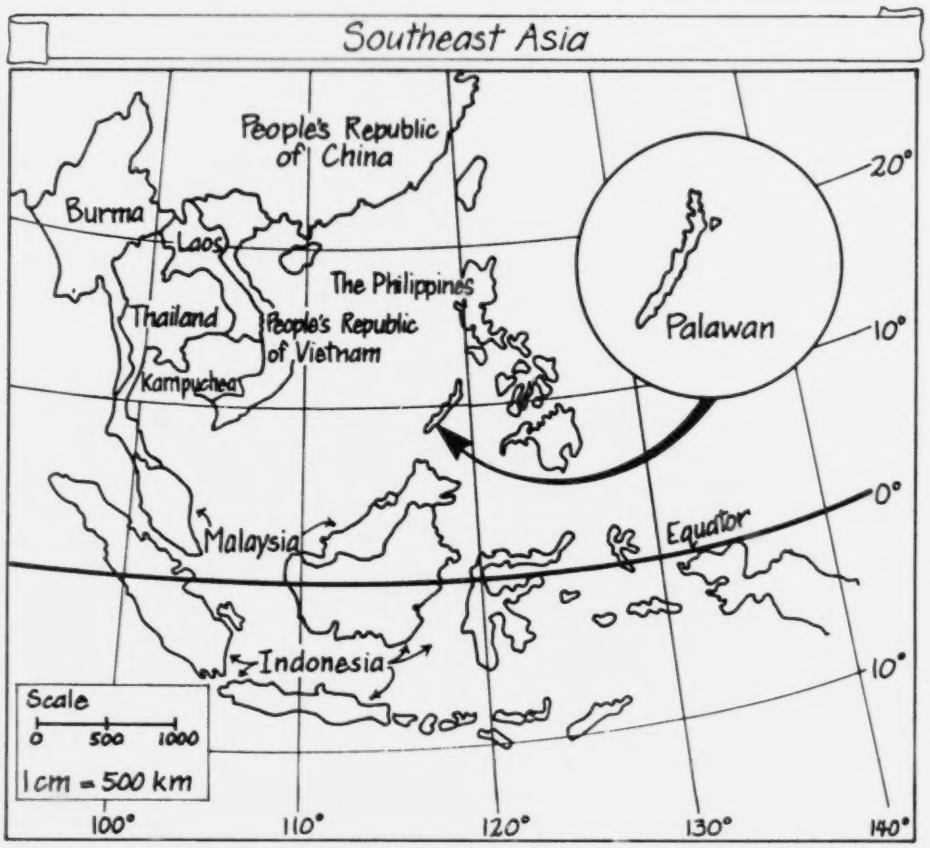
A. Male laborers would build it without pay.
B. Foreign laborers would be paid to build it.
C. A private company would be paid to build it.
D. Government employees would build it without pay.

17. Why might a person who valued equal treatment for all consider the *mita* system to be unjust?

A. Projects would take longer to complete.
B. Taxes would no longer have to be paid.
C. Some workers would be paid more than others.
D. Some people would have to work but not others.

THIS PART OF THE TEST IS ABOUT HOW PEOPLE IN EASTERN SOCIETIES MEET THEIR NEEDS TODAY.

Use the map below to answer question 18.



18. What information on the map supports the claim that the temperature in Palawan varies little between winter and summer?

A. Palawan is a large island.
B. Palawan is near the equator.
C. Palawan has mountain ridges.
D. Palawan has a monsoon season.

19. Which of the following basic needs is LEAST affected by the climate of a country?

A. Food
B. Housing
C. Clothing
D. Education

20. Which statement BEST describes how most people react to changes within a society?

A. People change their traditions easily.
B. People do not change their traditions.
C. People in all societies try to keep their traditions from changing.
D. People only change their traditions when they get ideas from other societies.

21. Which statement shows that tradition affects the way people meet their need for food?

A. Some people do not eat meat because of their religious beliefs.
B. Some people eat fruit often because it contains vitamins.
C. People make bread from many different kinds of flour.
D. People do not grow rice in dry climates.

22. A MAJOR reason for importing goods from Southeast Asia is to

A. learn about other ways of life
B. save our own goods for future use
C. give aid to Southeast Asian people
D. have things not grown or made in Canada

23. The aim of organizations such as the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) is to improve living conditions in Southeast Asian countries by

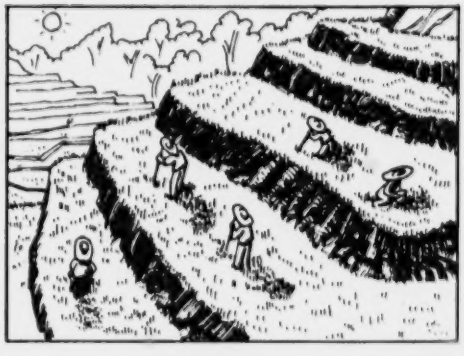
A. supporting local self-help programs
B. selling wheat to the people at low prices
C. collecting used clothing to ship overseas
D. encouraging Southeast Asians to move to Canada

24. Some Southeast Asian countries have many people to feed but very little farmland for growing crops. One way they are trying to solve this problem is by

A. sending people to work in the fields

B. dividing up the land so every family has some

C. moving people so they can farm in other countries



D. increasing the amount of farmland by terracing hillsides

Use the information below to answer questions 25 to 28.

Mr. Duncan, the manager of a Canadian engineering company, is working in a Southeast Asian country. He is surprised when Mr. Ochoa, a local businessman, arrives 30 minutes late for an appointment. The following comments are part of a conversation they had.

Mr. Duncan: "You are late. I expected you half an hour ago. We have to follow schedules and meet tight deadlines if we are going to do this job properly. In the engineering business, time is money. My staff is well-trained and that means well-paid. We can't afford to have them waiting for meetings."

Mr. Ochoa: "You have misunderstood our values. I never intended to come at the appointed time; my countrymen would not have expected me until later. To arrive on the dot suggests that I am not very important, that I have nothing better to do than keep this one appointment. A busy and successful man has so many responsibilities that he has the right to be late."

25. What issue about working in a country that has a different culture is being discussed by Mr. Duncan and Mr. Ochoa?

A. Who should work in other countries?
B. How should people keep business appointments?
C. Who should be allowed to attend meetings?
D. How should workers be paid?

26. The conflict is between one person's desire to be treated with dignity and the other person's need to

A. do a job on time
B. be well-respected
C. use modern technology
D. hire well-trained workers

27. In running his business, Mr. Duncan places the MOST importance on

A. following other people's traditions
B. doing work in other countries
C. using well-trained workers
D. being very efficient

28. The misunderstanding that has occurred between the two men results from the

A. languages they speak
B. customs they follow
C. technology they use
D. work they do

---

29. A major reason that Canadians are hired to work on some Southeast Asian building projects is that

A. Canadians want to learn about Southeast Asian ways
B. Canadians need help with their unemployment problems
C. specially-trained engineers are needed in Southeast Asia
D. it is too expensive to hire Southeast Asian engineers

Use the comments below to answer questions 30 and 31.

I use my telephone a lot. I travel a great deal in my job, so I have friends all over the country. I can't visit often, so I need to keep in touch by phone. I often use the phone for my work, too, because I must speak with computer programmers all over Canada.

— Christie Drapeau,
Canadian consultant

I don't need to use a telephone. After selling my catch of fish each morning, I go to the coffee shop for breakfast. I meet my friends there, and we discuss news from the village. Sometimes truck drivers stop in on their way to Kuala Lumpur and bring news from other villages.

— Abraham B. Hasan,
Malaysian fisherman

30. Christie and Abraham have different ideas about the need to use telephones because Christie has

A. more friends
B. a different lifestyle
C. different religious beliefs
D. a greater need to talk with friends

31. A general statement about all societies that can be supported by the two comments is that people

A. like to communicate with friends
B. have to use telephones to do business
C. need to talk to their friends every day
D. want to have friends in far-away communities

Use the information below to answer questions 32 and 33.

Cars are expensive to own and operate, yet every Canadian feels the need to own one. This is a terrible waste. It is common to see one person driving to work in a huge car that could carry six people. It's no wonder Canadians have trouble with traffic jams in large cities.

— Somchai Meesiri, a student from Thailand

32. Somchai's views about car ownership differ from those of many Canadians. Which of the following statements BEST explains this difference?

A. Canadians can get a driver's licence more easily than can Thais.
B. Canadians can afford to buy cars more easily than can Thais.
C. The climate in Canada is colder than in Thailand.
D. The roads are better in Canada than in Thailand.

33. A solution to traffic jams in Canada that would encourage more CO-OPERATION would be to

A. walk to work
B. buy cheaper cars
C. travel by car pool
D. drive smaller cars

THIS PART OF THE TEST IS ABOUT MEETING NEEDS THROUGH LOCAL, PROVINCIAL, AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENTS.

Read the information below, then answer questions 34 to 36.

The law says that people riding motorcycles must wear helmets. Some people do not like this law and want to see it repealed (removed). Other people support the law.

These are some comments that citizens have made on this issue.

MR. WYCLIFF
Some people don't know what's good for them. We have a responsibility to protect these people.
MR. BRANDON
I'm tired of the government regulating my life. There are some areas where they should leave well enough alone. This is one of those areas.
MISS SELDON
I'm glad the government did something to protect motorcyclists from injury.
MRS. SANTORI
If I have to pay for medical costs through my taxes, I should have the right to tell riders to wear helmets. I'm all for this law.
MR. GIBEAU
I can decide what's good for my kids.
MS. MAGUIRE
I'm an adult. I don't need someone else telling me what to do.

Use the speakers' opinions on page 20 to answer questions 34 to 36.

34. With which speaker does Steve DISAGREE MOST?

A. Ms. Maguire

B. Mr. Gibeau

C. Mr. Brandon

D. Miss Seldon

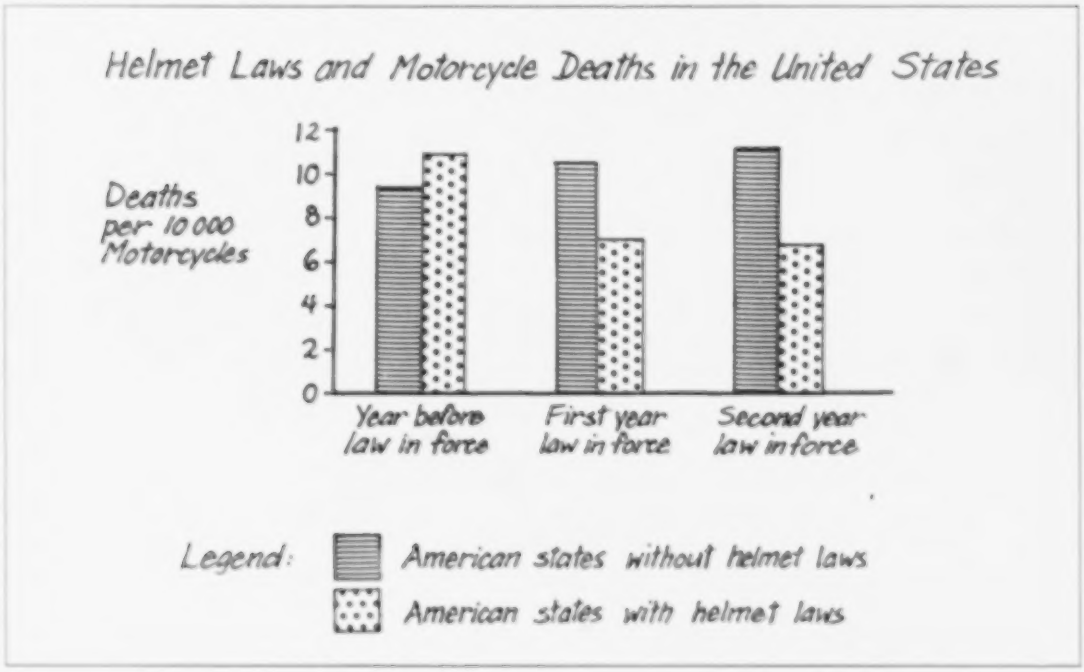
35. What is the MAIN issue being discussed by the citizens?

A. Should taxes be used to pay for motorcycle injuries?
B. Should there be a law requiring people to wear motorcycle helmets?
C. Should riders who wear helmets be allowed to pay less for medicare?
D. Should the law requiring helmets be limited to children who are passengers?

36. If all of the speakers' comments were being put on a chart, what would be the best title?

A. Opinions About the Helmet Law
B. Effects of Having the Helmet Law
C. Reasons for Keeping the Helmet Law
D. Persons Who Voted for the Helmet Law

Use the graph below to answer questions 37 to 39.



37. Which of the following questions could be answered using the graph?

A. When do most motorcycle accidents happen?
B. Why does the wearing of helmets save lives?
C. How many Canadians die in motorcycle accidents?
D. What might happen if our helmet laws were removed?

38. The graph shows that for every 10 000 motorcycles, American states WITHOUT helmet laws have

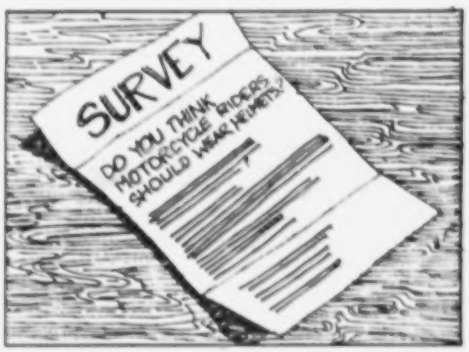
A. more motorcycle deaths than do states with helmet laws
B. more motorcycle accidents than do states with helmet laws
C. fewer people wearing helmets than do states with helmet laws
D. fewer people riding motorcycles than do states with helmet laws

39. What is the MAIN point presented in the graph?

A. Many states removed or weakened their helmet laws.
B. Many states have laws requiring the wearing of helmets.
C. Fewer motorcycle deaths occur when people wear helmets.
D. Fewer motorcycle deaths occurred in the second year.

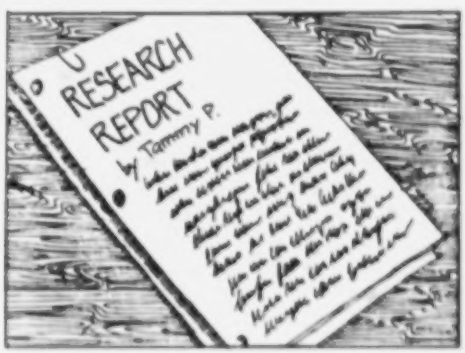
40. After learning that the helmet law could be removed, a Grade 6 class decided to take action to let people know how they felt about this issue.

Which action would make the students' point of view known to the greatest number of people?



A. Survey students in other schools.

B. Speak to the principal at recess.



C. Write a research report.

D. Make a presentation to parents.

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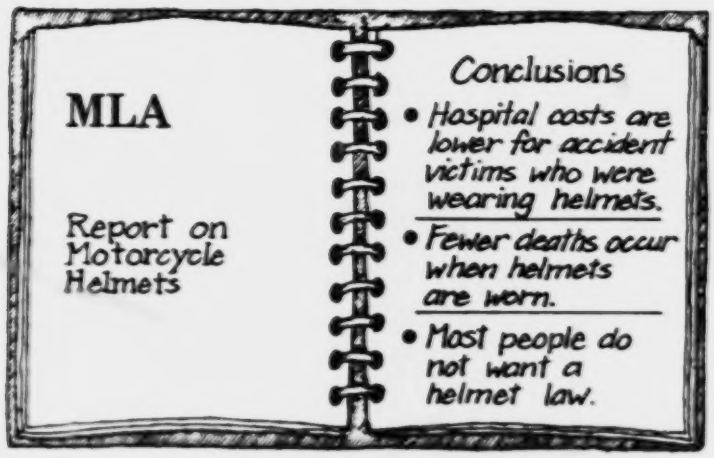
Use the information below to answer question 41.

A number of MLA's presented the following report to the legislature.


MLA
Report on Motorcycle Helmets
Conclusions
• Hospital costs are lower for accident victims who were wearing helmets.
• Fewer deaths occur when helmets are worn.
• Most people do not want a helmet law.

After the report was discussed, a vote was taken. The helmet law was repealed (removed).

41. Based on the principle of majority rule, the removal of the helmet law was

A. democratic, because most citizens didn't want the law
B. democratic, because some MLA's did research on the law
C. undemocratic, because hospital costs would be higher for all
D. undemocratic, because more Albertans would now die

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42. One of the reasons that Canada is considered to be a democracy is that we have

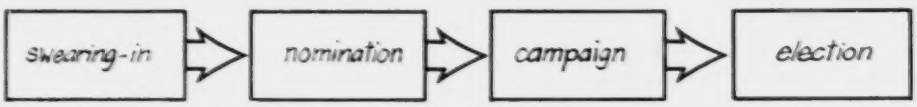
A. premiers in every province
B. leaders who are elected
C. a federal government
D. a constitution

43. The discussion held by members of the legislative assembly on a proposed law is called a

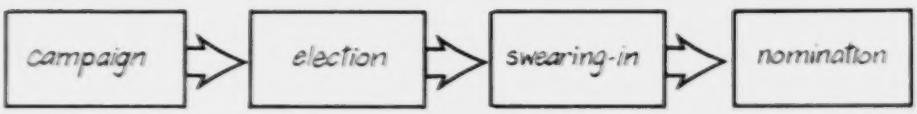
A. lobby
B. survey
C. debate
D. campaign

44. The steps, in CORRECT ORDER, that a person must go through to become a member of the legislative assembly are

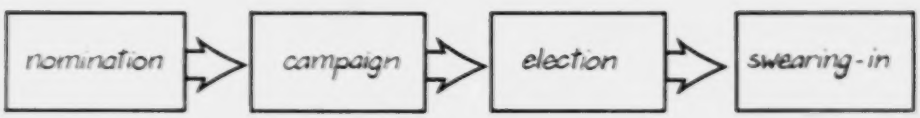
A.



B.



C.



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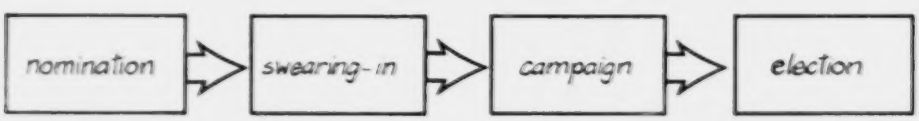

Use the information below to answer question 45.

We don't need laws to control children's use of video arcades. People should make those decisions for themselves.
FRED
Vote for FRED

45. This candidate would MOST LIKELY be supported by a voter who believed that

A. children shouldn't have to obey laws
B. children shouldn't have a say in making laws
C. people should work together to meet needs
D. people should look after their own needs

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46. Normally, the leader of the party that has the greatest number of elected members in the House of Commons is called the

A. Leader of the Opposition
B. Speaker of the House
C. Governor General
D. Prime Minister

47. One purpose of political parties in Canada is to

A. bring together people who share similar views on government
B. collect taxes to pay the salaries of elected officials
C. appoint members to town or city councils
D. choose members to sit in the Senate

48. The main role of the opposition in the federal government is to

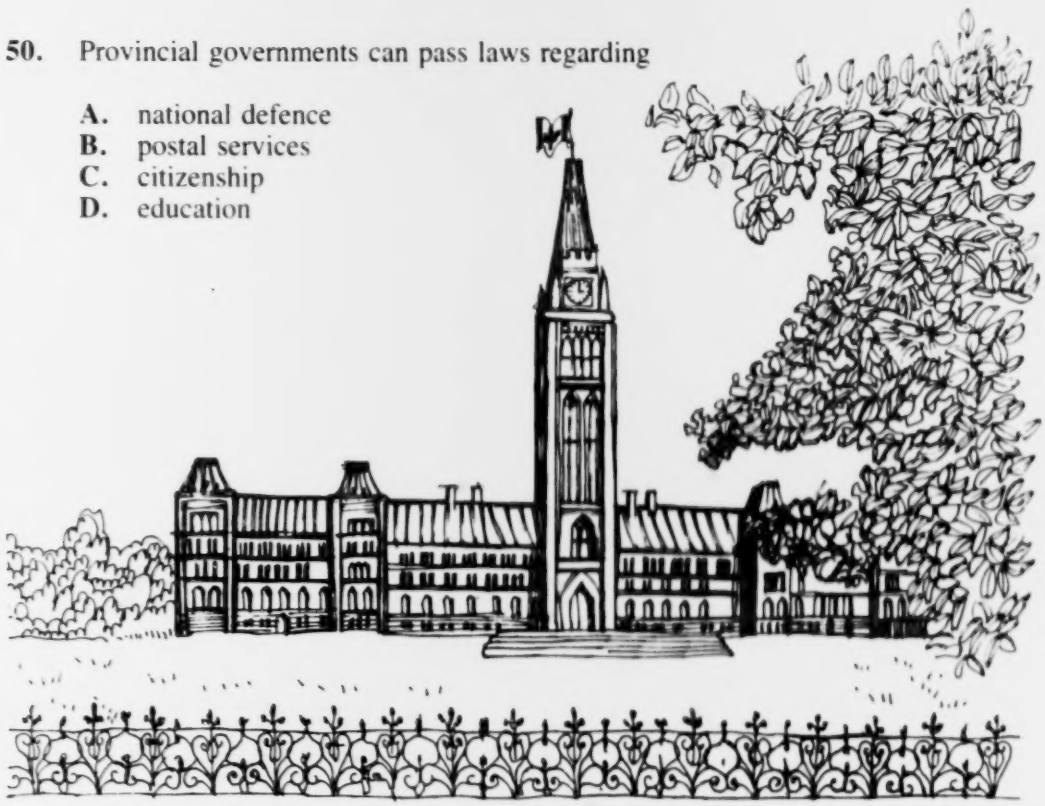
A. research bills for the government
B. protect the rights of provinces
C. present other points of view
D. support the party-in-power

49. Governments in Canada do not usually pay for the building of

A. schools
B. churches
C. hospitals
D. fire stations

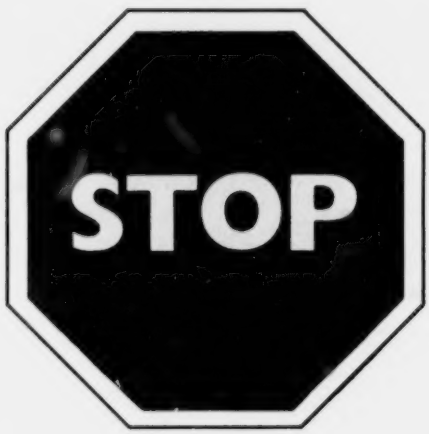
50. Provincial governments can pass laws regarding

A. national defence
B. postal services
C. citizenship
D. education



THIS IS THE END OF THE TEST.

You may go back and check your answers.



Thank you for writing the Grade 6 Social Studies Achievement Test.

CREDITS

Sources 25-29 "Businessmen from the States. . . he is entitled to be late." Adapted and abridged from *THE LAND AND PEOPLE OF THE PHILIPPINES* by John Nance (J. B. Lippincott Company). Copyright © 1977 by John Nance. Reprinted by permission of Harper & Row, Publishers, Inc.